

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim ~~[[1]]~~ 34, wherein at least one of the device-specific functionalities and information that is stored in the functional units is installed by means of an automatically running installation process.

5. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim ~~[[1]]~~ 34, further comprising:

~~wherein configuration tools are provided to install the~~ means for installing a communication link between at least one of the field devices and with the ~~higher-level control system or controller.~~

6. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim ~~[[1]]~~ 34, further comprising:

~~wherein~~ network components ~~are provided~~ for installation of the network links for a specific communication architecture.

7. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim ~~[[1]]~~ 34, wherein the functional units are at least one of device documentation, device core data, device parameters, device drivers, control functions, setting-up functions, diagnosis functions, maintenance functions, optimization functions, alarm processing functions, and life functions.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 7, wherein at least one of the device-specific components, ~~[[the]]~~ at least one configuration ~~tools~~ tool, and ~~[[the]]~~ at least one network ~~components~~ component ~~can be~~ are installed selectively.

10. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim ~~[[1]]~~ 34, wherein at least one of drives, motor protection units, switchgear assemblies, sensors, in particular sensors for pressure, temperature and flow rate measurements, low voltage devices, actuators, and analysis devices are used as field devices.

11. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim ~~[[1]]~~ 34, wherein at least one of the device-specific functionalities and information is recorded as at least

one of data structures and program components in the ~~device-specific components~~
memory.

12. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim ~~[[1]]~~ 34, wherein the memory is configured to test each device-specific components ~~are tested~~ for at least one of correctness and completeness of at least one of the device-specific functionalities and information.

13. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim ~~[[1]]~~ 34, wherein the device-specific components can be extended in a modular form.

14. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim ~~[[1]]~~ 34, wherein the distributed system is a distributed automation system.

15. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim ~~[[1]]~~ 34, wherein the higher-level system is a process control system or a programmable logic controller.

16. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim ~~[[1]]~~ 34, wherein the field devices communicate with the higher-level control system or controller via a fieldbus protocol which is in the form of at least one of PROFIBUS, PROFINet, FOUNDATION fieldbus, and HART.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim ~~[[17]]~~ 35, wherein the device-specific data includes at least one of ~~[[the]]~~ device-specific functionalities and information each device-specific component and associated ~~which is stored in~~ the functional units is installed by means of an automatically running installation process.

21. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim ~~[[17]]~~ 35, further comprising:

~~wherein configuration tools are used for the installation of the~~ installing a communication link between at least one of the field devices and with the ~~higher-level control system or controller.~~

22. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim ~~[[17]]~~ 35, further comprising:

~~wherein network components are provided for installation of the~~ installing network links for a specific communication architecture.

23. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim ~~[[17]]~~ 35, wherein the functional units provide at least one of device documentation, device core data, device parameters, device drivers, control functions, setting-up functions, diagnosis functions, maintenance functions, optimization functions, alarm processing functions, and life functions.

24. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim ~~[[17]]~~ 35, wherein at least one of the device-specific components, ~~the~~ at least one configuration ~~tools~~ tool, and ~~the~~ at least one network ~~components~~ component are installed in an installation process.

25. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim ~~[[17]]~~ 35, wherein at least one of the device-specific components, ~~the~~ at least one configuration ~~tools~~ tool, and ~~the~~ at least one network ~~components~~ component are installed selectively.

26. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim ~~[[17]]~~ 35, wherein at least one of drives, motor protection units, switchgear assemblies, sensors, in particular sensors for pressure, temperature and flow rate measurements, low voltage devices, actuators and analysis devices are used as field devices.

27. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim ~~[[17]]~~ 35, wherein the device specific data includes at least one of device-specific functionalities and information, the method further comprising:

~~is recorded~~ storing the at least one of device-specific functionalities and information as at least one of data structures and program components ~~in the device-specific components.~~

28. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim ~~[[17]]~~ 35, further comprising:

~~wherein~~ testing the device-specific data for at least one of correctness and completeness of ~~at least one of the device-specific functionalities and information are~~ tested.

29. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim ~~[[17]]~~ 35, further comprising:

~~wherein~~ providing modular extensions ~~are provided~~ in the device-specific components.

30. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim ~~[[17]]~~ 35, wherein the distributed system is in the form of a distributed automation system.

31. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim ~~[[17]]~~ 35, wherein the higher-level system is in the form of a process control system or a programmable logic controller.

32. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim ~~[[17]]~~ 35, wherein the field devices communicate with ~~[[the]]~~ a higher-level control system or controller

via a fieldbus protocol which is in the form of at least one of PROFIBUS, PROFINet, FOUNDATION fieldbus, and HART.

33. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim ~~[[17]]~~ 35, wherein the distributed system also includes a network component and ~~a controller~~ plural functional units, the method further comprising:

installing, in the controller, the device-specific ~~functionalities and information for the device-specific components~~ data based on an interaction between the at least one device specific component, ~~[[the]]~~ at least two functional units, and the network component; and

checking, at the controller, the device-specific functionalities and information for the device-specific components for completeness.

34. (New) A system for controlling a distributed system comprising:

an arrangement of plural field devices, wherein each field device is associated with a device-specific component and at least one functional unit;

memory that stores device-specific data of each device-specific component and the at least one functional unit; and

a controller that communicates with the memory to acquire and install the device specific data, wherein the controller includes means for interacting with each field device based on the installed device specific data.

35. (New) A method for configuring a distributed system, wherein the distributed system includes memory, an arrangement of field devices, and a controller, the method comprising:

storing device-specific data in the memory;

installing the device-specific data in the controller; and

producing, at the controller, device-specific components for the arrangement of field devices based on the installed device specific data.

36. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein the step of installing the device-specific data is performed once, the method further comprising:

generating, in the controller, means for interacting with each field device in the arrangement based on the installed device-specific data.